

REMARKS

In the Restriction Action mailed July 26, 2007, the Examiner required restriction between claims 132-146 (Group I) and 147-170 (Group II), stating that claims 132-146 and claims 147-170 constitute two groups of inventions that are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, wherein the special technical feature of Group I is the polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide having a chaperone-like activity, and the special technical feature of Group II is the structure and function of a denaturant stable/protease resistant protein.

The Examiner's requirement for restriction is respectfully traversed. Applicants submit that polypeptides having chaperone-like activity and the polynucleotide sequences encoding them, as taught in claims 132-146, correspond to the proteins having the structure and functions (chaperone-like activity) as taught in claims 147-170. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

While traversing the instant restriction requirement, and in order to comply with the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 132-146, reading on an isolated polypeptide having a chaperone-like activity and having a sequence at least 60% homologous to SEQ ID NOs: 2 or 35, or encoded by a polynucleotide having a sequence at least 60% identical to SEQ ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 34, 39 or 40.

The Examiner has further required election of one of a specific polynucleotide and polypeptide SEQ ID NO., alleging that each nucleotide sequence or polypeptide is structurally distinct and unrelated to other SEQ ID NOs.

While traversing the restriction requirement with regard to the SEQ ID NOs, Applicant further elects SEQ ID NO:2 as the polypeptide, and SEQ ID NO:1 as the polynucleotide.

New claims 171- 176, all depending from elected Group I claims, reading on fusion proteins comprising the polypeptides as taught in Group I fused to an additional polypeptide are introduced by this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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